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PATENT
09/815,675

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REMARKS

The Application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed May 21, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-12 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 were rejected. Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. To expedite allowance and further clarify the invention, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 11, and 12 to include some limitations from Claim 7. Claim 7 has been amended to independent form. Claims 3-6 and 8-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,287,516 issued to James R. Matson et. al. (hereinafter "Matson et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses. To expedite allowance of this application, Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations from Claim 7. Claim 2 is dependent from amended Claim 1. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matson et al. as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,008,199 issued to Brian William Grinnell et al. (hereinafter "Grinnell et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5-6, 8-10, 11 and 12 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matson et al. in view of Grinnell et al. Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 5, 6 and 8-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to include limitations from Claim 7.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,193,681 issued to Alan Davidner et al. (hereinafter "Davidner et al.") in view of Grinnell et al. Applicant respectfully traverses and requests consideration of Claims 1 and 11 as amended. Claim 2 is dependent from amended Claim 1.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review of the application and indication that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claim 7 to independent form. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of Claim 7 as amended.

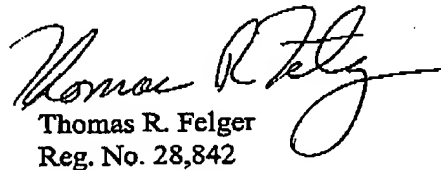
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests that Claims 1, 2, 7, 11 and 12 as amended be allowed. Early and favorable acceptance of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fees are due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant


Thomas R. Felger
Reg. No. 28,842

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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS: Customer No. 31625

Baker Botts L.L.P.
98 San Jacinto Blvd.
Suite 1500
Austin, Texas 78701
512.322.2599